A DISCOURS OF HUSBANDRIE USED IN Brabant and Flanders:

SHEWING
The wonderful improvement of Land there; and ſerving as a pattern for our practice in this
COMMON-WEALTH.

The Second Edition, Corrected and Inlarged.

LONDON,
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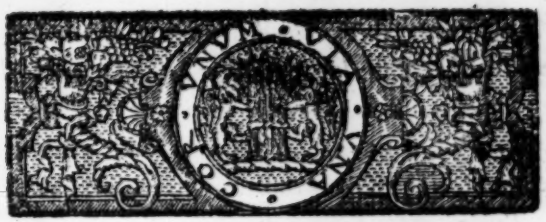

To

The Right Honorable

THE

COUNCIL OF STATE.

ALthough it is a dutie incumbent to all Men, *as* Men; *and to all* Profeſſors, *as* Chriſtians, *to love Mankinde, as* Chriſt *loved us; and to imitate the* God of the ſpirits of all fleſh, who cauſeth his Sun to ſhine upon the good and the bad; *and although there is a ſpecial delight to do that which is good and commendable, onely for the love of Goodneſs it ſelf, and the commendableneſs of Virtue; Yet, when wee meet with ſpecial and powerful* encouragements *to ſet us on, and* provocations *to draw forth our affections to laudable endeavors, wee muſt needs add ſom more effectual zeal to the performance of theſe duties. For mine own part I may ſaie without vanitie, that the*

firſt of theſe motives, The delight to do good, in love to the Publick, *hath ſupported mee hitherto, notwithſtanding manifold diſtractions in the waie wherein I have walked. And as it hath been one of my Aims, to have the honor (if poſsibly I could attain unto it) of ſerving the Publick* gratis, *and at mine own coſt, in the beſt things: So I have made it a part of my* Agencie, *to provoke others to do the like, by offering unto everie one, the things which might bee moſt advantagious unto themſelvs, by doing ſervice unto others. And how far my* affections *have carried mee beyond my* abilities *in this courſ, I need not to mention: this hath onely been my* comfort, *that having ſerved my Generation generouſly and freely, I never had cauſ to repent of what I had don, whether it were reſented by others, or not. But now of late, ſeeing it hath pleaſed God, not onely by the ſettlement of this* State *in the waie of a* Common-wealth, *to give to all men a more open door then ever heretofore, to enter upon a concurrence to ſerv the* Publick, *that thereby they might both preſerv and encreaſ their own welfare; but that I have found unexſpectedly from your Honors ſom peculiar expreſsion of favor towards my ſelf, upon the account of my publick-heartedneſs; I muſt confeſs, that I am thereby not ſo much refreſhed by reaſon of that which befalleth to* my ſelf, *as delighted in the hopeful apprehenſion of that*

which

which befalleth to the Publick, whiles in this particular I am able to perceiv, that the good hand of God hath put the management of his Cauſ and Work in the hands of Men, whom hee hath endued with a publick ſpirit, which is a clear teſtimonie to mee, that hee will build thereon a ſuperſtructure, which by his grace upon your waies will redound to his glorie, and evince unto the world, that it is not any private Intereſt, but his Glorie and the Publick Happineſs, which hath acted and doth act, both the Parlament and your ſelvs in all your undertakings. And verily the conſideration of this very thing, that God hath ſet in publick places Men that minde the Publick for it ſelf, and ſeek out thoſe that are ſo enclined, although they make no ſpecial application unto them (which hitherto I have not don) is more worth to mee then the private advantage, which your Honors favor can bring unto mee. For although the ſtraits wherewith the times, and my own forwardneſs to ſerv others have caſt mee, might induce mee to rejoice at the fruit of your Honors bountie towards my ſelf; Yet that is no waies comparable to the ſenſ of joie, which I have at the clear Character, which this hath given mee of the ſpirit by which you are led; for herein I perceiv, that henceforth the labors of impartial love towards the Publick, are not like to bee in vain, as for the moſt part they have been heretofore, and that there

will bee ſom real encouragement for the making of rational overtures, tending to reſolv that grand queſtion, which is propoſed by the Pſalmiſt in the name of all men, who, with one and the ſame accent, ſay; Pſal. 4. 6. Who will ſhew us anie good? *Therefore ſince the Wiſdom of the* Parlament *hath enacted a waie to anſwer the* Quere, *as to the Trade of this Nation (which is a manifeſt demonſtration of their eminent care for the* Publick) *it hath raiſed with joie both mine own, and the thoughts of ſom others to a forwardneſs of contributing, that which might bee ſubſervient and uſeful to that deſign; that as Bees belonging to the ſame hive, wee ſhould bring our honie together, to bee preſerved and encreaſed in one ſtock for the good of all. In order to this reſolution, and as a teſtimonie of gratitude, I thought it might bee ſeaſonable to offer to your Honors, and under your name to the* Publick, *this following Epiſtolarie* Diſcourſ, *which relate's unto the advancement of Agriculture*, beeing one of the Nobleſt and moſt neceſſarie parts of Induſtrie belonging to a Common-wealth, the firſt ground of mutual trading amongſt men, and the well-ſpring of wealth in all well-ordered Societies. *And if concerning this ſubject (as beeing a main Intereſt of State) ſom courſ in due time were thought upon to ſet forward the Judicial, and regulate the*

Practical

Practical waie of Husbandrie, ſuch overtures could bee made in that kind, as would ſenſibly (even to the meaneſt capacitie) demonſtrate a very Cornu-Copia *and fulneſs to bee atteined of the choiſeſt temporal bleſsings to ſupplie all men's wants. And although I cannot ſay much of mine own experience in this matter, yet Providence having directed mee by the improvement of ſeveral relations unto the* Experiences *and* Obſervations *of others, I finde my ſelf obliged to becom a conduit-pipe thereof towards the* Publick, *chiefly now, where there is ſo favorable an aſpect of* Patronage *from thoſe that are in eminent places towards thoſe that minde publick advantages.* Prov. 11.26. *It is ſaid in the Proverbs,* that hee who doth with-hold Corn the people ſhall curſ him; but a bleſsing ſhall bee upon the head of him that ſelleth it. *If not to impart the means of livelihood to thoſe that ſtand in need thereof, when it is in our power to ſupplie them therewith, bee to withhold the ſame; and this deſerve's a curſ: then no man can blame mee for the largeneſs of this communicati.n, from which all that ſhall reap any benefit, are thereby to bee indebted unto your Publick affections, and bleſs them as the cauſ, whoſe influence hath given it this production; for it is intended onely as a pledg of furtber endevors in the ſame and other kindes, for which the* State *in due time will bee beholden*

to

to your care and vigilance, when the tenders thereof ſhall finde that acceptance, and the furtherance thereof, that encouragement which your wiſdom and love to the Publick ſhall finde expedient to beſtow thereon. May the God of all grace and goodneſs ſo bleſs your Conſultations for the good of this State, *that they may end in the ſettlement of a firm and laſting Peace, where not onely outward Plentie and Proſperitie, but the treaſures of a better life in the Kingdom of Jeſus Chriſt, may bee enjoied to the praiſ of God the Father. Theſe are, and ſhall bee the dailie praiers of*

Your Honor's

truly faithful and moſt

humble ſervant

SAMUEL HARTLIB.

Sir *Richard Weſton* late of *Sutton* in the Countie of *Surrey* his Legacie to his Sons, &c. *Anno Dom.* 1645.

My Sons!

Have left this ſhort enſuing Treatiſe to you as a Legacie, if I ſhall not live my ſelf to ſhew you (what therein is written by Examples, which, I know, inſtruct far more then Precepts; yet Precepts from a dying Father, inſtructing of his Children what hee hath ſeen and known, and received information of from witneſſes free from all Exceptions, ſhould make ſuch impreſſion on them, as at leaſt to believ their Father writ what hee thought was true, and therefore ſuppoſe thoſe things worthy to bee put in practice by them, which hee himſelf would have don, if it had pleaſed God to have granted him Life and Libertie, eſpecially ſeeing the matter it ſelf, which is required by him to bee don, is in ſhew ſo profitable and ſo eaſie to bee effected, and with ſo little charge, conſidering the great gain that is propoſed by it, that not any thing can reſtrain a rational man from trial thereof, but not giving credit to the Relator.

The whole Diſcourſ ſhew's you how to improve barren and heathie Land, and how to raiſ more then ordinarie profit thereof, by ſuch waies and means as are not practiſed in *England*; but as commonly in ſom parts of *Brabant* and *Flanders*, as the Husbandrie of Wheat and Rye is here. By that means you may nobly augment your Eſtates, and will receiv ſo much the more profit and praiſ, by how much with more induſtrie and diligence you govern your affairs, and will not onely bee imitated, but alſo honored by your Neighbors, when they ſhall ſee your Labors proſper ſo far as to convert barren and heathie ground, left unhusbanded for many ages, into as commodious arrable Land, with Paſtures and Meadows, as any bee in this Kingdom; And certainly that man is worthie of Praiſ and Honor, who beeing poſſeſſor of a large and barren demeaſnes conſtrain's it by his labor and induſtrie to produce extraordinarie fruit, which redound's not only to his own particular profit, but alſo to the publick benefit. *Cato* ſaith, it is a great ſhame to a man, not to leav his Inheritance greater to his Succeſſors then hee received it from his Predeceſſors; and that hee deſpiſeth the Liberalities of God, who by ſlothfulneſs looſeth that which his Land may bring forth, as not ſeeming willing to reap the fruits which God hath offered him; Nay, hee threaten's the crime of high Treaſon to thoſe that do not augment their Patrimonie ſo much as the increaſ ſurmount's the principal; It is a thing much celebrated by Antiquitie, and thought the nobleſt way to gather wealth, for to imploie one's wit and monie upon his Land, and by that means to augment his Eſtate. If you obſerv the common courſ of things, you will finde that Husbandrie is the end, which men of all Eſtates in the world do point at:

For

For to what purpoſe do Souldiers, Scholars, Lawyers, Merchants, and men of all occupations and trades, toil and labor with great affection, but to get monie; and with that monie when they have gotten it, but to purchaſe Land; and to what end do they buy that Land, but to receiv the fruits of it to live; and how ſhall one receiv the fruits of it, but by his own Husbandrie, or by a Farmers? So that it appear's by degrees, that what courſ ſoëver a man taketh in this world, at laſt hee cometh to Husbandrie, which is the moſt common occupation amongſt men, the moſt natural and holie, beeing commanded by the mouth of God to our firſt Fathers. There is care and diligence requiſite in Husbandrie, as there is in all the Actions of the world; and therefore as a Captain hath a Lievtenant to command his Souldiers in his abſence, or for his eaſ: So muſt you provide ſom able honeſt man, to whom you will commit the execution of ſuch things as you your ſelvs cannot do without too much labor, whereof you muſt often take an account and confer with him, as occaſion ſhall require, about your buſineſs, that nothing may bee left undon for want of Providence: To ſuch a man you muſt give good wages, with intent to advance your own gain, and take the more eaſ by reaſon of his honeſtie and knowledg.

You will finde this Husbandrie (after you have once had experience of it) to bee very pleaſing to you, and ſo exceeding profitable, that it will make you diligent: for no man of any Art or Science (except an Alchimiſt) ever pretended ſo much gain any other way, as you ſhal ſee demonſtrated in this enſuing Treatiſe: The Uſurer double's but his principal, with Intereſt upon Intereſt, in Seven years; but by this little Treatiſe you ſhall learn how to do more then treble your principal in one years compaſs:

And you ſhall ſee how an induſtrious man in *Brabant* and *Flanders* would bring 500 Acres of barren and heathie Land, that was not worth at the moſt above 5 l. a year, to bee worth 7000 l. a year, in leſs time then ſeven years; I know no reaſon why the like may not bee don in *England:* for wee are under as good a Climate as they are. Our heathie Land, that is neither Sand nor Loam, is as good a ſoil as their barren ground is: Wee have not onely Dung to enrich our Land, but alſo Lime and Marl, of which they know not the uſe, where they ſow their gainfulleſt Commodities, mentioned in this enſuing Treatiſe, nor of any other Manure, but only Dung. In fine, I am certain there is none of their Commodities but grow in *England*, as they do in *Brabant* and *Flanders*, but ours are not of the ſame kinde as theirs, nor put to the ſame uſe; what cannot bee vented at home may as well bee vented from hence into *Holland*, as the like Commodities are from *Flanders* thither: I will ſaie no more of this Subject in the Preface, only it remain's to tell you, That you muſt not exſpect either Eloquence or Method in this enſuing Treatiſe, but a true Storie plainly ſet forth in the laſt Will and Teſtament of your Father, which hee would have you execute; but before all things to bee ſure you lay the foundation of your Husbandrie upon the bleſſings of Almightie God, continually imploring his Divine aid and aſſiſtance in all your labors; for it is God that give's the increaſ, and believing this as the quinteſſence and ſoul of Husbandrie, *Primùm quærite Regnum Dei, & poſtea hæc omnia adjicientur vobis:* Theſe things beeing briefly premiſed, I will leav the reſt to this ſhort enſuing Treatiſe, and commit you all with a Father's bleſſing to the Protection and Providence of Almightie God.

It

IT is a certain thing, that the chiefeſt and fundamentalleſt point in *Husbandrie*, is, To underſtand the nature and condition of the Land that one would Till; and to ſow it with ſuch Seeds as it will produce, either Naturally, or by Art, that which may turn to a man's greateſt profit and advantage. I did think I had underſtood that point (when I went out of *England*) after thirtie years experience in *Husbandrie*, and having improved my Land as much as any man in this Kingdom hath don, both by Water and Fire. But after I had been a while in *Brabant* and *Flanders*, I found I was to learn a new leſſon in point of *Husbandrie*; for that the barrenneſt, Heathie and Sandie Lands in thoſe Countries did produce richer Commodities, by an ordinarie waie of *Husbandrie* there in practice, then the ſtrongeſt and richeſt grounds that were in both thoſe Countries. When I firſt arrived at *Dunkirk*, and went to *Bridges*, (which was near fortie miles) I ſaw as rich a Countrie as ever my eies beheld, ſtock't with goodlie *Wheat* and *Barlie*, and excellent Meadows and Paſtures. The ſoil began to alter into worſ, mid-waie between *Bridges* and *Gaunt*, which were twentie four *Engliſh* miles aſunder; and ſo ſoon as I was paſt *Gaunt*, in my journie towards *Antwerp*, I did ſee ſuch Land for about twentie miles together, that I cannot compare to any ground more like, then the Land by *Sandie Chappel*, three miles diſtant from *Kingſton* upon *Thames*. A great part of the High-waies, out of the Road and Track of Horſes and Carts, did bear Heath; and ſuch Incloſures, on the inſide of the waies, which were not kept in Tillage, did either produce *Heath* or *Broom* of their own natures. The ſoil did not much amend until I came within two miles of *Antwerp*, wch was thirtie *Engliſh* miles from *Gaunt*. There I ſaw a goodlie Marſh, or

feeding ground for Cattel, which was kept with a ſtrong Banck for beeing overflowed by the river of *Scheld*, under which notwithſtanding there laie Sluces to let in the Water when they pleaſed, and Ditches were made in the Marſh to convey it back into the River at low Tides when they thought fit. On the other ſide of *Antwerp* was Contribution-land lying in *Brabant*, which naturally was as barren and apt to Heath as any land betwixt that Citie and *Gaunt*. I ſtaied not long at *Antwerp* before I returned to *Gaunt*, and diligently reviewing the Countrie as I went back, I could finde no other Corn to grow there, then *Rie*, *Oats*, and *French Wheat*; which ſeemed a ſufficient Teſtimonie to mee of the barrenneſs of the ſoil, which would neither bear *Wheat*, *Barlie*, or *Peaſe*; and for that the former Grains did uſually grow in *England* upon the edg of Forreſts and Heathie grounds. A few daies after my return, I fell into diſcourſ with a Dutch Merchant, then living at *Gaunt*, but had lived ſom years in *England*, and told him that I did not think that all *Flanders* had yielded ſo much barren ground as I had ſeen between *Gaunt* and *Antwerp*. Hee anſwered mee, that that Land was the richeſt part of all *Flanders*. I ſmiled to hear him ſaie ſo, thinking at firſt hee had jeſted, and I replied, That I believed, that one Acre of Land between *Bridges* and *Dunkirk*, was worth ten Acres of any Land I ſaw there between *Gaunt* and *Antwerp* (excepting the Marſh-land, and ſom little ſtraps of Meadow by the River ſide): for the one did bear goodlie *Wheat*, *Barlie*, and *Peaſe*, and was in manie places naturally excellent Meadow and Paſture; and the other would carrie no other Corn but *Rie*, *French Wheat*, and *Oats*, and would never bear any conſiderable graſs, but turn'd preſently after it was laid down to Heath or Broom. The

Merchant

Merchant told mee again, that their beſt Commodities were pull'd and cut before I went that waie; but hee could prove that that Land did yield more profit yearly then the beſt Land in *Flanders*, and that the *Bores* (for ſo they term their *Farmers*) were richer there then in any part of the Countrie. I muſt confeſs at firſt I thought his diſcourſ to bee ſom kinde of Riddle, but ſeeing him earneſt in affirming that which ſeem'd ſtrange to mee; I deſired him to explain himſelf, how it was poſſible, that that Land ſhould yield more profit then the other. I will tell you (ſaid hee) the reaſon why it yieldeth more profit, becauſ that Land is natural to bear *Flax*, which is called the *Wealth* of *Flanders*; and one Acre of good *Flax* is worth four or five Acres of the beſt *Corn* which groweth between *Dunkirk* and *Bridges*; and after the *Flax* is pull'd, it will preſently bear a Crop of *Turneps*; which may bee better worth, Acre for Acre, then the beſt Corn in the Countrie. After that Crop is off, about April following you may ſow the ſame Land with *Oats*; and upon them *Clover-graſs* ſeed onely harrowing it with buſhes, which will com up after the *Oats* are mowed, and that year yield you a very great Paſture till Chriſtmas; and the next year following you may cut that graſs three times, and it will every time bear ſuch a burden, and ſo good to feed all ſorts of Cattel, as the beſt Meadows in the Countrie do not yield the like; and will continue good four or five years together without ſowing it. After this wee parted. At firſt I wondered much at his diſcourſ; but much more at the ignorance and ſloathfulneſs of our Countrie which beeing near to *Flanders*, and many Merchants and Gentlemen travelling thither daily, none ſhould underſtand, or at leaſt put in practice theſe *Husbandries*, there beeing ſo much Barren and

and Heathie Land in *England* of very little value, which might by following their Example in theſe *Husbandries* bee made more profitable, then the beſt Land in this Kingdom. I after pondered what the Merchant ſaid all that daie and the next, and then began to imagine with my ſelf, what an huge *Improvement* I might make of my own Eſtate, if theſe things were true which hee had told mee; and if God Almightie pleaſed to permit mee quietly to enjoie it. And to bee further ſatisfied, I ſent another *Dutchman* in the Town that had been in *England*, with whom I was grown acquainted, and deſired him to inform himſelf from ſom of the *Bores* in the Countrie, whether thoſe things the Merchant had affirmed to mee were true. Hee returned mee an Anſwer from three or four, whom hee ſaid hee knew to bee honeſt men and underſtanding thoſe *Husbandries*, that a *Gammet* of *Flax*, (which was their Acre, but ſomwhat more in quantitie then ours) might well produce fourtie or fiftie pounds worth of *Flax*, if the Land were well dung'd and Husbanded, and ſowed with good Eaſt-Countrie ſeed, and that it pleas'd God to ſend convenient rain after it was ſowed, and a ſeaſonable time till Harveſt. Theſe were no other conditions, then I conceived all other ſeeds and grain to bee ſubject to, either to prove good or bad. And for the other queſtions wherein I deſired to bee ſatisfied, concerning the *Turneps* and *Clover-graſs*, hee told mee they did concur in all with the Merchant, without any other condition or limitation. The Winter after I did examine divers perſons upon the like queſtions, who I thought did underſtand that buſineſs, and found very little difference in their relations. And in April following, which was the chiefeſt time for ſowing of *Flax* and *Clover-graſs*-ſeed, I did often walk into the Fields a mile

or

or more out of the Town, and expostulated the business with the *Boores*, when they were sowing of *Flax* and *Clover-grass* seed, and afterwards observ'd that these things did prosper very well, on such ground as I conceiv'd to bee extreme barren of its own Nature. But further to inform my self more fully what an Acre of *Flax* might bee worth, I bought an *English* rod of *Flax*, when it was grown up, neither the best nor worst, and caused it to bee pull'd, water'd, and dress'd by it self; then valued it as *Flax* was sold the week following in the market at *Gaunt*, and the seed likewise. Afterwards I cast up what eight rod, which was an Acre, would rise unto, according to that valuation; and I found that it came to three six pound, fourteen shillings, six pence, and though by that rate an Acre did not com to fortie pounds, yet it made mee believ, that an Acre of good *Flax* might bee worth fortie pound and more; for that which I tried was but indifferent *Flax*.

I went presently afterwards to *Antwerp*, and saw almost everie third or fourth field by the highwaie side for almost twentie five miles together, stocked with goodlie *Flax*, far beyond that which I bought to make my Trial of; Whereof som was pull'd, and the rest was ready to pull. The similitude of a great quantitie of Land I had in *England* unto theirs in *Flanders* and *Brabant*, which I saw did bear their richest Commodities: and my Loss in *England* both of personal and real Estate, made mee enquire after all *Husbandries* of those Countries, of such as I conceiv'd could any waie instruct mee, that I might learn somthing, or other, whereby to repair my fortunes, if hereafter it pleas'd Almightie God to give mee leav to enjoie my own Estate in Peace again. And beeing one daie in companie of som Merchants, It happen'd that

discourse fell out about *Improvements* of their barren ground. I said that I had a great quantitie of Barren and Heathie Land in *England*, that I thought might bee easily brought to bear *Flax*, *Turnips*, and *Clover grass* as well as their barren Lands did in *Flanders* and *Brabant*. To which a Merchant answered, that hee would carrie mee to a man within three miles of *Antwerp*, who had taken a *Farme upon Improvement*, which was just such Heathie Land as I describ'd mine to bee. For hee was about five years since to have bought it, and when hee saw it all Heath, hee would not meddle with it; but the *Farmer* had so improv'd it already, that hee had now growing upon it, a Nurserie of twelv Acres of all sorts of Trees, as *Pear-Trees*, *Apple-Trees*, *Cherrie-Trees*, *Chesnut* and *Walnut-Trees*, *Oaks*, *Elms*, *Elmes*, and the like; hee had there also growing both *Flax*, *Turnips*, *Clover-grass*, *Roman Beans*, and most sorts of Corn, and hee had planted a *Hop-ground* and an *Orchard*; hee said hee would tell mee what *Husbandrie* hee used to make such a strange Conversion, and that I could not please him better then to come to see it, and applaud his *Husbandrie*: and hee did assure mee, that it was worth my Journie, and to bee inform'd from him: for never a man in that Countrie could better instruct mee, then hee; and I will (said hee) go thither with you, when you please. I thanked him very kindly for his offer, and told him I would wait upon him thither to morrow morning. It was agreed between us, and som other that were there said, they would wait on us both to see this wonder. But I asked him before wee parted, what that taking of a *Farme upon Improvement* was, which hee before did speak of. Hee answered, that when another had bought the Land, this man offered more Rent then hee could make of it at that time, to

have

have a Leaſe for one and twentie years, upon condition, that whatſoever four indifferent perſons (whereof two to bee choſen by the one, and two by the other) ſhould judg the Farm to bee improved above the Rent at the end of his Leaſe, the *Owner* was to paie ſo much in value to the Tenant for his improving it. I told him it was a waie of letting land I never knew of before: Hee anſwered it was an ordinarie way with them of letting ſuch barren Land, as men could not tell how to manage themſelves.

The next daie, wee went thither, and the firſt thing wee ſaw was his *Nurſerie of trees*, which did grow and proſper very well, and hee made accompt they would yield him ten thouſand pounds before his Leaſe was expired, and as I remember hee valued them one with another but at two ſhillings a tree. Then I ſaw a little *Cloſe of flax*, which I eſteemed to bee about three eighth acres; of which flax hee told mee, the Merchant that brought mee thither before I came from *Amſterd.* that hee had made an hundred and fiftie pounds, which was by my computation fiftie pounds an Acre. I alſo ſavv grovving there very good *Carrots*, and excellent *Clover-graſs*, vvhich hee valued as hee then vvorth twvely pound an Acre. I after ſavv it cutting the firſt daie of *June* 1644. beeing then tvvo foot long, and very thick, and vvent thither again the nine and tvventieth daie of the ſame moneth, and ſaw the ſame graſs grown up, and then cutting again, beeing twentie inches long. I ſaw it cutting again in *Auguſt* following, beeing then eighteen inches long. I viewed the grounds round about, and found the skirts of the Cloſes left unploughed to bee heath: and both hee and the Merchant affirmed, all the reſt, where his *flax* and *Clover-graſs* grew, was heath but

three years before. I was very inquisitive of him to know what husbandrie hee used to the land, for to convert it from heath to bear such rich Commodities. Hee told mee, first hee broke it up with a strong Team of horses, then ploughed it cross, afterwards tore off the heath with a great harrow, then gathered it up and burnt it, and laid about twentie loads of dung upon an Acre, and spread it upon the Land; then ploughed it again, and sowed the first crop with *Rye*, the next with *Oats*; and when hee had harrowed his *Oats*, hee sowed *Clover-grass* seed upon them, which hee harrowed with a bundle of bushes under his harrow, and that came, after [illegible] was off, to bee of a very good pasture before *Michelmas*; and this third year hee had mowed the *Clover-grass* thrice, as I had seen, and it would come to a very good pasture quickly, to feed till *Christmas*; and the [illegible] thought hee should do for three years more; but afterwards the ground would turn to an ordinarie grass. Hee said, hee used his ground where his flax grew, as his other; but first again, about half the quantitie of dung hee did at first; and then sowed it with *flax*, and upon the flax *Clover-grass*-seed, as hee had don before upon the *Oats*, his *Roman beans*, his Hops, and *Orchard* thrived very well, and all with the same quantitie of dung, proportionably used; for there they knew no other *Manure*. I askt him how hee could make 12 l. of an acre of this *Clover-grass*: hee said, either by feeding *Cattle*, or keeping *Kine*, or laying it for seed after the first cut. For an Acre of it beeing made part into haie, and the rest fed green, would keep four Kine, winter and summer; and an Acre laid for seed might carrie five bushels, which valued at 6 d. a pound, came to 8 l. Sterling; besides the first and second cuts of grass and hay,

and

and the after-pasture. Hee said the best time for sowing *flax* and *Clover-grass*-seeds was about the beginning of *April*, presently after a shour of rain. Som continue sowing of *flax* until the end of *Maie*, and som sow after; though I know no caus to commend their slowness, in sowing of it so late. I was not very inquisitive after his other Commodities. I saw by his *Turnips* which hee sowed upon his heathie land, at his first breaking up, that hee differed in that point from all other husband-men in those Countries, who sowed them immediately after *Rye* or *flax*; but those things are left to every one's experience to proceed therein as hee thinks best, according to his own Observation. Now what I had observed here, and between *Gaum* and *Antwerp*, my Reason told mee, (grounded upon som former Experience,) that there was no land that naturally bore heath, bee it either of a sandie, or sommit mould, but might *by deconstring* first (which I prefer before their Husbandrie in *Flanders*, whereunto adding som *Dung*, or *Lime*, or *Marl*, in fit proportion as shall bee hereafter expressed,) may bee made better then the best land, that *Flanders* or *England* doth afford. For no man with reason can denie, but that *Land is best, which will bring forth such Commodities as will yield most monie to make one wealthie and rich*; for though wealth and Riches may consist either in Cattle, Corn, houshold-stuff, Plate or Jewels; yet, when those things are valued, wee commonly say, they are worth so much *monie*. So *Regina Pecunia*, *Monie* is the *Queen* that command's all. Now if the same quantitie of Acres of poor heathie Land, by producing *Flax*, *Turnips*, & *Clover-grass*, will yield more monie then the rich Land, which yieldeth Wheat, Barlie, meadow, and good pasture: then by consequence it followeth, that the *poor* Land is

better then the *Rich*. And I suppose that they finde by experience in *Flanders* that their rich land will naturally bear those Commodities, otherwise they could not bee ignorant that they do so far exceed their best Corn and Meadows in matter of profit, which appeareth clearly by their own valuations: for they value an Acre of *Flax* may bee worth fortie or fiftie pound. An Acre of *Turnips* worth eight pound, or ten pound, an Acre of *Clovergrass* worth ten or twelv pound, whereas they value their best *Barley* may bee worth ten or twelv pound, their best *Wheat* may bee worth five or six pound an Acre, and their best *Meadow* worth four or five pound an Acre: Now if you compare the value of these Commodities together, supposing the rich Land will not bear the other, which are the richer Commodities, so well as the poor; you must needs conclude the poorer Land to bee the better. And it is a strong Argument to mee, that their rich land will not bear those rich Commodities so naturally as the Heathie and Sandie Land doth; for though I went often between *Bridges* and *Dunkirk*, which is thirtie nine miles, beeing the richest Land in *Flanders*, and where there is goodlie *Wheat*, *Barley*, and *Meadows*, as ever my eies beheld; yet I never saw in all that ground, to my remembrance, one Acre of *Flax*, *Turnips*, or *Clovergrass*: whereas, on the contrarie, between *Gaunt* and *Antwerp*, (which is thirtie miles, and the poorest Land in all the Countrie, much like *Sandie*-Chappel in *Surreie*, or som part of the Heathie Land in *Windsor-Forrest*:) I have seen many hundreds of Acres of goodlie *Flax*, *Turnips*, and *Clover-grass*, close by the High-way side, and their Corn there not any thing but *Rie*, *French Wheat*, and *Oats*.

It is not onely dung, which causeth the fertilitie in those

thoſe Barren, Heathie, and ſandie Lands for to bring forth thoſe rich Commodities, but partly the nature of thoſe ſeeds, which do delight to grow rather in a light and gentle Land, then in one too ſtiff and heavie. Though it is true, that dung is of that virtue, that it heat's, fatten's, ſweeten's, and reclaim's all Barren grounds: and unſlakt *Lime* and *Marl* are of as great an Efficacie, beeing proportionably tempered with *Earth* and *Aſhes*, and of longer continuance to enrich Land, as I will ſhew hereafter. But becauſ ſom will ſaie, that the *burning of the Taff* (which wee call *Devonſhiring*) will make the ground the worſ after three years, I do moſt confidently affirm, upon my own experience, that, with the addition of *Dung*, or *Lime*, or *Marl*, in fit proportions, that there is no ſuch *Husbandrie* in the World, perfectly to prepare any Heathie Land, and make it nourish, receiv and nurs ſeeds. For the Earth is, as it were, reaved by the Fire, having no other Roots in the entrails of it, produceth nothing in many years but what one ſow's upon it; and ſhall remain vigorous enough to ſerv as long as one of knowledg and underſtanding will deſire it. And therefore I ſhall adviſe you to prefer this *Husbandrie* upon your Heathie Land before any other.

Though they have no other manure to mend their Land, but Dung in the Barren and Heathie Land in *Flanders* and *Brabant*; yet they have a very fine way in *Brabant* to rail a great quantitie of Dung, the practice whereof may much advance the Improvement of St *Leonard*'s Forreſt. They that keep ſheep there, upon the Heaths, houſ them every night, and in the Summer, at noon, firſt having laid three or four Inches of Sand at the bottom of the Floor, whereon they lodg their ſheep for a night or two, which tread their Dung and Piſs into the

the Sand, and so they daily use more Sand to bee used in the same manner, until the quantitie bee grown so great, that the sheep cannot conveniently go in or out. Then they cast that out of the Houses and put in more Sand, and so proceed thoughout the year, and by this means three or four hundred sheep will raise one thousand Loads of Dung in a year: and eight hundred sheep two thousand Loads, which, allowing twentie Loads to an Acre, will dung an hundred Acres yearly: and this Dung by experience doth mightily improve such Heathie Land as S. *Leonard*'s is. Besides there is *Marl* in most part of the *Forrests*. I account any *Mere* that is free from stones, and lieth so thick, as it is worth the digging, and near and convenient to carrie to your Land, and of a clammie substance, when it is wet, though it seem only *Clay* or *Loam*, yet is [illegible] *Marl*, and very good Manure for Sandie and Heathie Land, bee it of what Color it will, as either Grass, Yellow, or Blue; and sortie Loads of it laid upon an Acre in Summer, and presently spread, and so let lie all Winter to incorporate with the earth, then *Devonshired* the next *Heath* and spread upon the Land and Sow'd, will mightily improve it. I did use six Acres thus, that had nothing but *Heath* growing upon it, and had two Crops of Corn from it; and the third year it came of it self to bee as good Grass as ever I saw grow in any Meadow in *England*. I saw another great Improvement in *Clement Stokes*'s Farm adjoining to the Forrest; hee had Land, that hee let out two years together, for twelv pence an Acre: at last hee *Devonshired* it, and caused his hills before they were burnt, to bee set a just rod square one from another; and when they were burnt, hee put a peck of unslackt *Lime* into every hillock, beeing eight-score hills upon an Acre, took up just a Load of *Lime*, which

which was fortie Bushels, this *Lime* beeing slackt in the hills, with the first Rain was mingled together with the Ashes, and then spread upon the Land, and after Sow'd with *Wheat*; and brought as good as any was in the Countrie: and the next year a very good Crop of *Oats*, and the year following com to as good Grass as any hee had to his Farm. This I hold to bee the cheapest *Husbandrie*: becauf four or five Load of *Fern*, of which there is store in the Forrest, beeing cut from the beginning of *July* to the middle of *August*, will burn off twelv Loads of *Chalk* to *Lime*; and though your *Chalk* cost dear the binging thither; yet the *Lime* will not stand you in twelv shillings a Load, and by this way you save much carriage, and so by consequence may compass to manure yearly much more Land. As for Example, you carrie but one Load of *Lime* to your Land, whereas by the other waies you must carrie twentie Loads of Dung; and fortie Loads of *Marl*. So as by the *Lime*, if that will do as well, you may *Lime* twentie Acres as soon as you can Dung one Acre, and fortie Acres for one with *Marl*; But I advise you to make Trial your selvs of all these several *Husbandries*, and then to follow that which you finde cheapest and best.

I have set down at large, how I came first to know these *Husbandries*, and how I was satisfied in these particulars. I have also set down three several waies to improve your Land; now I will lay down the charge of each in severaltie; then cast up the profit from one Acre to five and twentie Acres; then to fiftie, and so to an hundred Acres; by which it shall appear, that by an ordinarie way of *Husbandrie*, according to the value, which they make of like Commodities in *Flanders*, how that by improving an hundred Acres of Heathie Land

every year, as namely of St *Leonard*'s Forreſt, and ſowing the Seeds of *Flax*, *Turnips*, and *Clover-graſs*, you may in five years improve five hundred Acres to bee worth above ſeven thouſand pounds a year. The particular charge of an Acre of *Flax* is as followeth:

Firſt, *Devonſhiring* of an Acre	01	00	00
A load of Lime to put into the Hills	00	12	00
The ploughing and harrowing of an Acre	00	06	00
Three buſhel of *Flax-ſeed* at thirteen ſhillings four pence the buſhel	02	00	00
The weeding of an Acre	00	01	00
Pulling and binding an Acre	00	10	00
Graffing the Seed from the Flax	00	06	00
Watering, drying, ſwinging and beating the Flax of nine hundred weight upon an Acre	04	10	00
This is the uttermoſt charge that I could learn: ſo the whole cometh to	l. 09	s. 5	d. 00

Nine hundred pound weight of *Flax*, upon an Acre at eight Stivers the pound, which was an ordinarie price in *Gaunt*, when I was there, together with the Seed, valued to bee worth	40	00	00

Now if you add fifteen ſhillings an Acre more, towards Charges or Loſſes, the Account beeing already ten pound an Acre, ſhort of the value of their beſt *Flax*, yet remain's above all Charges clear for 25 Acres at 30 l. the Acre	750	00	00

By

By the ſame Account you will bee at five hundred pound charge for fiftie Acres, and then receiv at fortie pound an Acre, two thouſand pound; but clear above all Charges but—— } 1500 l.

The like Account of a thouſand pound charge for an hundred Acres; you receiv upon the Account of fortie pound an Acre, four thouſand pound; but clear above all Charges—— } 3000 l.

This thouſand pound Charge for an hundred Acres is onely ſuppoſed, in caſe you lay out all the Charge before you receiv any Monie for part of your *Flax*; but before you are out ſeven hundred pound, ſom Monie will com in for *Flax* continually, ſo as indeed you ſhall not need to go out above ſeven hundred pound at all in ſtock, and after the firſt years profit is com in, you cannot Account that you are out any thing from your purſ, becauſ you have your full ſtock again, and three thouſand pound more.

But this is not all the profit you are to exſpect from your hundred Acres the firſt year; for after the *Flax* is pull'd, which will bee either in *Julie* or *Auguſt*, the ſame Land may bee ſowed with *Turnips*, and prove according to the *Flander*'s Account, worth eight pound an Acre, over and above all charges: ſo twentie five Acres cometh to two hundred pound; fiftie Acres to four hundred pound, and an hundred Acres to eight hundred pound. They ſow in *Flanders* but two pound and an half of *Turnip* ſeed upon an Acre, which was worth, when I was there, but twelv pence, and plough it once after the

Flax is pull'd, then harrow'it, and weed it, if there bee cauſ, and that is all their charge concerning that buſineſs.

Both theſe Crops are ſow'd, ripe and ready to bee pull'd within eight months; that is, between the beginning of *April* and the end of *November*: ſo the profit of an hundred Acres the firſt year, cometh to, beſides all charges on this Account, unto three thouſand eight hundred pound. And the hundred pound allowed for charges, may very well com into your purſ again within the other four Months.

When the *Turnips* are pull'd, I would have the ſame hundred Acres made ready again to bee ſow'd with *Clover-graſs*-ſeed alone, about the beginning of *April* then next following, therein altering the cuſtom of *Brabant* and *Flanders*, which is to ſow it immediately either with or after the Corn. For I found by Experience in *Herefordſhire*, that it will thrive much better the firſt year, and turn to more profit alone, then a Crop of *Oats* and it ſow'd together will do.

The charge of an Acre is firſt ploughing and harrowing about ——— 00 05 00

Ten pound of Seed as it coſt mee at *Antwerp* 1645 at ſixpence a pound ——— 00 05 00

Cutting the Graſs twice, making the Haie, and threſhing out the Seed ——— 01 10 00

So the whole charge is —— 02 00 00

The ſecond years profit.

Which beeing deducted there remain's clear for one Acre, according to the *Brabant* and *Flanders* Account ——— } 10 l.

Which for twentie five Acres cometh to two hundred and fiftie pound, for fiftie Acres, to five hundred pound, and for an hundred Acres to ——— } 1000 l.

Then

Then an hundred Acres more muſt bee *Devonſhired*, and ſow'd with *Flax* and *Turnips*, as is before expreſſed, which, with God's bleſſing, may yield the like profit of three thouſand eight hundred pound, whereto the thouſand pound for *Clover-graſs* beeing added, the whole profit of the ſecond year from two hundred Acres, amounteth to four thouſand eight hundred pound ——— 4800 l.

The third years profit.

Then the laſt hundred Acres, ſowed with *Flax* and *Turnips*, muſt bee ſowed as before, with *Clover-graſs-ſeed*, which, according to the former accompt, coming to one thouſand pound, and an hundred Acres more *devonſhired*, as formerly, and ſowed with *flax* and *Turnips*, yielding the like profit of three thouſand eight hundred pound, as is before ſpecified, adding thereunto the two hundred Acres of *Clover-graſs*, the whole profit of the third year is ——— 5800 l.

The fourth years profit.

Then the hundred Acres ſowed before with *Flax*, and *Turnips*, muſt bee ſowed as formerly with *Clover-graſs*-ſeeds, which yielding a thouſand pound, according to the former Accompts, and another hundred Acres *devonſhired* as formerly, and ſowed with *Flax* and *Turnips*, and yielding like profit of three thouſand eight hundred pound, and adding thereunto the three hundred Acres formerly ſowed with *Clover-graſs*-ſeed, make's the whole profit of the fourth year ——— 6800 l.

The

The fifth years profit.

Then the laſt hundred Acres ſowed with *Flax* and *Turnips*, muſt bee ſowed as before with *Clover-graſs*-ſeed, which yielding like profit of a thouſand pound, and another hundred Acres *devonſhired* as formerly, and ſowed with *Flax* and *Turnips*, yielding the like profit of three thouſand eight hundred pounds, thereto adding the four hundred Acres formerly ſowed with *Clover-graſs-ſeed*, make's the whole profit of the fifth year. } 7800 l.

Thus have I plainly ſhewed what I promiſed in my Preface, that was, how an induſtrious man in *Brabant* and *Flanders* would convert five hundred Acres of barren and heathie Land from little value in five years to bee worth above ſeven thouſand pounds a year.

You ſee, you have better means to mend your Land then they have; your Land lieth in a manner under the ſame Climate; for *Chicheſter* and *Mecklin* are in one degree; the Soil is much alike, as I have ſhewed, you may have as good a vent for your Commodities, as they have for theirs, if you pleaſe; and therefore I do not know what Reaſon can hinder you from putting theſe things into practice.

You may continue this yearly profit of ſeven thouſand eight hundred a year upon this five hundred Acres. If you will by *Liming*, *dunging*, or *marling*, and *devonſhiring* again the firſt hundred Acres, laid down with *Clover-graſs*, and ſowing it with *Flax*, and *Turnips*, as before, and ſo go round with every hundred Acres, as formerly in its courſe; but having great ſtore of barren and heathie ground,

ground, you were better improve that, and let the *Clover-graſs* continue as long as it will. And if after five years cõtinuance it turneth to a mingled Graſs; yet that will bee as good as moſt Meadows and Paſtures, that I know in *England*; for it turn's cõmonly from a red Honie-Suckle to a white, which wee repute the ſweeteſt Graſs, although it doth not carrie the greater burthen. And I am perſwaded it will continue longer if it bee kept for Seed and cut but twice, whereas they commonly cut it thrice a year in *Flanders* alwaies in the Sap, which will kill Fern.

Now I will ſhew you how they vent theſe Commodities, that you may learn the better, how to vent yours. Firſt, they make great ſtore of Linnen themſelvs, and ſend it moſt for *London*, what they make not in Cloath; they have a Market every Thurſdaie at a place called St *Nicolas*, almoſt mid-waie between *Antwerp* and *Gaunt*, whither Merchants com on purpoſe to buy it, and ſend it into *Holland*, and there ſell it at dear rates. I met with a Linnen Draper of *London*, when I was at *Gaunt*, and queſtioning him what vent there was for *Flax* at *London*: hee told mee that before theſe troubleſom times, if I had had a very great quantitie, hee could have helped mee to Chapmen to have bought it off at dearer rates at *London*, then uſually they ſold it at in *Flanders*; for hee ſaid, hee did believ there was not leſs then an hundred thouſand pounds worth of *Flax* brought yearly into *England* from Forreign parts; a great part whereof to his knowledg was ſent from *London* into *Lancaſhire*; there made into Cloth, and afterwards brought back in Cloth, and ſold in *London*; and if times grew peaceable again in *England*, hee told mee, I need not doubt the venting of more *Flax* at *London*, then ever I would have to ſell; and two honeſt

Engliſh

Engliſh Merchants of my Acquaintance did aſſure mee, that if I could not ſell my *Flax* at *London* to my content, they would tranſport it for mee into *Holland*, where I might ſell it dearer then they ſold their *Flax* in *Flanders*: for Merchants uſually ſent for *Flax* out of *Flanders*, and ſold it again in *Holland*, at dearer rates then they paid for it there.

But if you finde that theſe Commodities thrive with you, and you grow rich by them; I would adviſe you to ſend for ſom Workmen out of *Flanders*, that underſtand the Manufacture of Linnen Cloth, and make your own *Flax* into Linnen Cloth, you cannot choos but gain by it exceedingly, when you are aforehand with the World, if they live by it who fetch it firſt from *London* into *Lancaſhire* by Land; beeing made in Cloth, recarrie it up; and beſides you ſhall do a charitable deed by bringing in that Manufacture into the Kingdom. For it keep's a very great number of poor Women and Children at work in *Flanders* and *Holland*, that otherwiſe would not have means to live. So by this way you ſhall bee ſure to vent your *Flax*, and withall procure a publick benefit to the Kingdom.

The *Husbandrie* of *Turnips* is as Common between *Gaunt* and *Antwerp*, as that of *Flax*; for as there is more *Flax* ſowed there then of anie other Grain or Corn, ſo commonly after the *Flax* is pull'd, immediately they ſow *Turnips*, and preſently after their *Rie*; what they do not eat themſelvs, they give unto their Cattle; they will feed Oxen and Kine as fat as Hay or Oats; the Roots beeing clean waſhed, and then Roots and Leavs beeing put into a Trough, and there ſtampt together with a Spitter, and after boil'd in Water and given to Kine, will make them abound with Milk, yet grow ſo fat withal, that

that you would wonder at it. The onely difficultie is to make your Cattle eat them at first; but breed them up by hand, as they do there. Others do the same alreadie in many parts of *England*, they will take *Turnips* and eat, or any other thing you will give them.'

To encourage you the more to sow *Turnips*, I will demonstrate unto you what an Acre of them transplanted may bee worth by Calculation as they are sold in *London*. They commonly there sell four or five *Turnips* in a bunch for a pennie. A rod square beeing sixteen foot and a half may bear a thousand eighty and nine *Turnips*, beeing set at half a foot distance the one from the other. Now suppose that a thousand cometh to good, and five sold for a pennie, then a Rod of them amount's to sixteen shillings eight pence, and an Acre of them beeing eightscore Rod by the same Account, come's to above thirtie pound, and therefore certainly an hundred Acres sow'd, may bee very well valued at eight pound an Acre one with another, when you have brought your Cattle to eat them as theirs do.

I told you before how in *Brabant* and *Flanders* they made twelv pound an Acre of their *Clover-graß*, either by feeding Cattle, keeping Kine, or by the seed: which, commonly encreasing to five Bushels upon an Acre, was worth eight pound when it was sold, but at sixpence a pound; but beeing sold for two shillings a pound (which price I my self now paid for it) the value of the Seed quadruple's from eight pound to thirtie two pound an Acre; and the man that sold mee seed this year for two shillings a pound, desire's to buy, all that I can spare, the next year at the same price, if you get but into the best kinde of those they use in *Flanders*. For when your Neighbors see your Labors thrive and prosper so far as

to convert your Land which bore nothing but Heath for many Ages; *First*, into excellent *Flax*; *then* into such delicate *Turnips*, as they never saw before or tasted; and to end with such *Clover-grass*, as they will admire, when they once see your Crops, and somwhat understand, that you do reap som benefit by them, they will com to you as to an *Oracle* to ask your Counsel, and bee instructed, and desire it from you as a favor, at first to buy your Seed at any reasonable price.

But if you finde that you have more Seed of *Flax* and *Turnips* (if you will let them grow to Seed) then you can vent, you must then set up either a *Water-Mill*, or *Winde-Mill*, as they do in *Flanders*, and make them into *Oil*; both which Seeds make's good *Oil*, which you may bee sure to sell in *London* at good Rates.

And for your *Clover-grass*-seed, if you finde you cannot sell it to your content, you may choos whether you will let it grow to Seed or not; and if you do not let it grow to Seed, you may cut it once more in a year, then otherwise you could do.

You must change your *Flax* Seed, though never so good at first after four years, the other Seeds do not so much require it.

I doubt not but these things will seem as strange to you at first, as they did to mee; and therefore I desire you but to trie what I propose, upon such profitable Terms, as no man, that is well in his wits, but will venture at them, beeing laid down so plainly to you, as a childe may understand them.

You may observ, that *Flax*, *Turnips*, and *Clover-grass* alreadie grow in *England*; but there is as much difference between what groweth there, and here, as is between the same thing, which groweth in a Garden, and that which groweth wilde in the Fields. To

To prevent what may bee ſtrange or troubleſom to you at Firſt for want of knowledg, I would adviſe you to ſend *Tom* or *Robin* to *Gaunt*, where by means of ſom of their old Acquaintance there, they may provide you a ſervant, who underſtand's theſe ſeveral Husbandries as well as any of ours do the *Husbandrie* in getting Corn; and by obſerving of his practice, you your ſelvs, or whom you will appoint may bee ſufficiently inſtructed in a year or two ſo far, as to command ſuch things to bee don by others, as are not fit and neceſſarie to bee don by your ſelvs.

Beſides the exceſſive profit you will reap by Sowing theſe Commodities, imagine what a pleaſure it will bee to your Eies and Sent, to ſee the Ruſſet Heath turn'd into greeneſt Graſs; which doth produce moſt ſweet and pleaſant Honie-Suckles; and what Praiſ and Reputation you will gain by your Examples, firſt introducing that into your Countrie, which beeing followed by others, muſt need's redound to the general benefit of the whole Common-wealth. I do by my *Will* command you for to execute no more then what I would my ſelf to morrow put in practice, if I had Libertie: you ſhould then learn theſe things I have ſet down by *Examples*, which I am enforc'd to leav to you as a Father's *Precepts*, and with a Father's bleſſing to you all, deſiring God Almightie to guide you and direct you in all your Actions, I will leav you to his Divine Protection and Providence.

Note, that the *Clover-graſs*-ſeed will bee ripe about a Moneth after it appeareth in the husk.

FINIS.

A Copie of a Letter written to Sr Richard Weston.

Sir!

I Am very credibly informed that you are the Autor of the Diſcourſ which I have heretofore publiſhed under the Name of *Brabant Husbandrie*. I am bound therefore to give you thanks, on the behalf of the Publick for it. And to aſſure you that (though my Copie, by which I did publiſh it, was imperfect) nevertheleſs that it hath been exceedingly liked, and now is wholly out of Print, and much ſought after, but cannot bee had any more, which doth put the Printer upon thoughts of re-printing it; and his reſolution that waie hath moved mee to make this addreſs unto your ſelf, partly to deſire you to excuſe my freedom in telling the world to whom they are beholden for ſuch an Improvement of their Husbandrie; partly to intreat you to favor the ſecond Edition of that Diſcourſ with a re-view, which may make it bee like that which is your own, and worthie to bear your Name, which for your Honor I have made bold to publiſh. Sir! I have ſent you here a Copie corrected, as I am informed, according to the Original which you wrote; but becauſ I deſire to bee ſure not to wrong you, ſo far as I can poſſibly prevent it, ſeeing you are now taken notice of to bee the Autor. Therefore I ſhall beſeech you, with convenient ſpeed to let mee hear from you, whether this Copie, thus corrected, bee right according to your ſenſ; and in caſe any thing bee defective therein, I ſhall intreat you to add thereunto what you ſhall think fit to make it Compleat and ſufficiently Enlarged for the benefit of all: that the Publick may perceiv, that it is not againſt your ſenſ and will, that all your Countrie-men ſhould bee beholden to your Induſtrie and Ingenuitie. Sir! I have herewith, in imitation of your Legacie to your Sons, made a Legacie of the ſame kinde to this Common-wealth of ſuch Advantages as are com to my hands from ſpecial friends, which I now impart unto you as a requital for that which I have uſed of yours, that you may ſee, that by a generous and free Communication of good things, nothing is loſt to thoſe who

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are Communicative, but rather much gained thereby. Sir! there is nothing in this life of greater content to a truly noble and Chriſtian ſpirit, then to oblige all men in good things without partialitie; this make's men like unto God, and conformable to Chriſt, who hath taught us, that it is more Bleſſed to Give then to Receiv, and conſequently, the better the things are which are Given, the greater the bleſſedneſs of the Giver is, which ſhould make us zealous to impart moſt freely the beſt things to each other; that if wee ſeek firſt the things which belong to Eternitie, and deſire to ſerv each other in all other things onely as relating thereunto, wee may finde the promiſs made out unto us, that *If wee ſeek firſt the Kingdom of God and his Righteouſneſs, all other things ſhall bee added unto us.* Wee know that theſe things are but for a moment, but the things of his Kingdom are for ever; therefore as wee ſhould not deſire for our ſelvs the enjoiment of life it ſelf, otherwiſe then in reference to that which is to com; ſo wee ſhould not intend the Communication of things belonging to this bodily life upon any other account unto each other, but as they are, or may bee an effect of the life of Chriſtianitie, that is ſubordinate by our Correſpondencie therein, unto the means of our mutual Advancement towards the enjoiment of God in the Kingdom of Jeſus Chriſt, wherein I deſire infinitely more to bee the ſervant of all men, then in any of theſe outward concernments: Thus Sir, you ſee how my heart com's to bee Enlarged, and deſirous to approve it ſelf alſo unto you by a more Eminent and better Communication in the face of Jeſus Chriſt, in whom I remain aſſuredly,

SIR!

Your affectionately humble

and faithful ſervant,

SAMUEL HARTLIB.

From my Houſ at *Charing-croſs*, over againſt Angel-Court, the 2d of *Maie*, 1651.

Another Copie of a Letter written to Sr *Richard Weſton.*

SIR!

I Make no doubt but you received mine of the 2d of *Maie* laſt, which was conveied unto you by a friend of yours and mine; together with my Legacie, and a Corrected Copie of your Diſcourſ of *Brabant Husbandrie*, concerning which I intreated you to let mee know your ſenſ, how for the ſecond Impreſſion you approve of it, or intend to inlarge; but I have received as yet nō Anſwer from you, perhaps ſomthing hath been in the waie, whereof I can make no rational conjecture; yet I thought good, beeing (as you ſee by this adjoined Letter from the Printer) called upon to further a ſecond Impreſſion; to renew my ſute unto you, that you would, in a thing ſo much tending to your Credit, and the good of many, ſeeing you are believed to bee the Autor thereof, further and fulfil my former deſires, whereby you will oblige exceedingly

SIR!

Offob. 10th 1651

Your humble and moſt ready friend to ſerv you

Samuel Hartlib.

If any deſire to have the great *Clover* of *Flanders*, or the beſt ſort of *Hemp* or *Flax* Seeds of thoſe parts; Let them enquire at Mr *James Long*'s Shop at the Barge on *Billingſ-gate*, and they ſhall upon timely notice have them procured new, and very good, from *Flanders* at reaſonable rates.

FINIS.